



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Rep. Kind Backs Lobbying Reform

Bill Will Change the Way Business is Done in Washington

Washington, D.C. – To shed new light onto the lobbying process and help change the way business is done in Washington, U.S. Rep. Kind (D-WI) today voted to approve H.R. 2317, *The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007*.

The bill will end the pay-to-play schemes like the “K Street project,” require greater disclosure of contributions to members’ charities or business entities, and establish a public database of member travel and personal financial disclosure forms.

“In November, the American people sent a strong message that they were fed up with the way Republicans were doing business in Washington,” Rep. Kind said. “This bill will shed new light on the way lobbyists seek to influence lawmakers, and the means by which they go about it. My hope is that the new sunshine will put an end to the kinds of quid pro quo deals that happen all too often in this process.”

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007:

- **Lets the Sunshine In:** Requires lobbyists to report quarterly, instead of semi-annually, on their activities and their direct campaign contributions, and makes those reports available to the public;
- **Puts Teeth in Enforcement:** Doubles civil penalties and adds new criminal penalties for violations of the new requirements; and
- **Stops the Revolving Door:** Requires House members and senior staff to report their negotiations for post-congressional employment to the ethics committee, and to recuse themselves from potential conflicts of interest involving the new position.

“Unlike sham lobbying reform bills passed by previous Congresses, these bills will work to open government up and return it to the people,” Rep. Kind added.